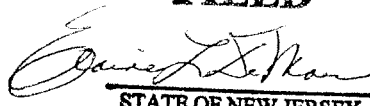


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Attorney for the Professional Counselor
Examiners Committee of the New Jersey
State Board of Marriage and Family
Therapy Examiners

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FILED
 4/10/2008
STATE OF NEW JERSEY
BOARD OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY
EXAMINERS

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR EXAMINERS
COMMITTEE OF THE STATE BOARD OF
MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY EXAMINERS

IN THE MATTER OF THE
SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION OF
THE LICENSE OF

Administrative Action

DAWN STILLWAGON-AHLERS, LPC
License No. 37PC0003600

TO PRACTICE PROFESSIONAL
COUNSELING IN THE
STATE OF NEW JERSEY

CONSENT ORDER OF VOLUNTARY
SURRENDER OF LICENSE TO PRACTICE
PROFESSIONAL COUNSELING

This matter was opened before the Professional Counselor Examiners Committee of the New Jersey State Board of Marriage and Family Therapy Examiners (hereinafter "the Committee"), upon review of allegations that respondent engaged in repeated boundary violations and a sexual relationship with a client that had a history of "physical, sexual and verbal abuse."

Respondent appeared pro se before the Committee on May 3, 2007 and on February 7, 2008 when she appeared with counsel, William S. Wachenfeld, Esq. Respondent has admitted that she engaged in repeated boundary crossings but denied that she engaged in a sexual relationship with the client.

The Committee has reviewed respondent's experience in the field of professional counseling, the documents provided to the Committee and respondent's testimony before the Committee. During her testimony she admitted that she lent the client fifty dollars (\$50.00), allowed him to repair her husband's truck and allowed him to visit her home and family on several occasions.

Respondent at this time has agreed to the voluntary surrender of her license to practice professional counseling in the State of New Jersey in accordance with the terms of this Consent Order. The Committee finds the terms of this Consent Order to be adequately protective of the public interest, and respondent desiring to resolve this matter without further proceedings;

IT IS THEREFORE ON THIS 16th DAY OF April, 2008
ORDERED:

1. Dawn Stillwagon-Ahler shall surrender her license to practice professional counseling in the State of New Jersey to be deemed a revocation precluding respondent from applying for reinstatement of license for a minimum of two (2) years, beginning thirty (30) days from the filing of the within Consent Order. Respondent shall deliver all licensing documents including her original wall certificate and her license and wallet size credential (expiration date November 30, 2008) to Ms. Elaine DeMars, Executive Director of the Professional Counselor Examiners Committee, P.O. Box 45044, 124 Halsey Street, Newark, New Jersey 07101 within thirty-five (35) days of the filing of the within Consent Order.

2. Respondent shall cease and desist from engaging in any mental health counseling in the State of New Jersey, including but not limited to professional counseling and/or psychotherapy, custody evaluations, court ordered evaluations and/or volunteer or uncompensated counseling. Respondent shall cease and desist from engaging in any mental health counseling in any exempt settings. No

credit toward the time prior to an application for reinstatement shall be counted for any period in which respondent is practicing any type of counseling in any other jurisdiction or country, whether or not such counseling is provided in an exempt setting.

3. Respondent is reprimanded for engaging in repeated acts of negligence, malpractice or incompetence and professional misconduct, in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(c) and (d).

4. Respondent shall pay costs for the State's expert report and the transcripts of her testimony before the Committee in the amount of six thousand dollars (\$6,000.00) simultaneously with the signing of this order. Payment shall be by certified check or money order payable to the Treasurer, State of New Jersey and submitted to Elaine DeMars, Executive Director, Professional Counselor Examiners Committee, P.O. Box 45044, Newark, New Jersey 07101.

5. Respondent shall pay civil penalties in the amount of ten thousands dollars (\$10,000.00). Payment shall be by certified check or money order payable to the Treasurer, State of New Jersey and submitted to Elaine DeMars, Executive Director, Professional Counselor Examiners Committee, P.O. Box 45044, Newark, New Jersey 07101. Providing that respondent complies with all of the terms of the Consent Order, the civil penalty shall be stayed and shall be deemed satisfied upon documentation of three (3) years of compliance with the Consent Order.

6. Failure to remit payment as required by this Order will result in the filing of a Certificate of Debt and such other proceedings as are permitted by law.

7. During the thirty (30) day period following the filing of the within Consent Order, respondent may continue to treat existing clients only to provide for appropriate referrals but respondent shall not treat any new clients.

8. Two (2) years after the filing of the Consent Order, respondent may apply for reinstatement of her license to engage in professional counseling. In that event, respondent shall submit the following documentation:

a. Transcript from a graduate program in professional counseling demonstrating that she attended in-person (not a distance learning and/or internet program) and successfully completed course work pre-approved by the Committee in all of the following areas: ethics and boundaries, case management, diagnostic skills and evaluation and assessment.

b. Documentation that respondent has successfully passed the Certified Clinical Mental Health Counselor Credential Examination.

c. A statement signed and dated by the respondent listing each job respondent engaged in during the time respondent's license was revoked, including name of business or entity, address, name of supervisor, telephone number of supervisor, dates of employment and description of respondent's duties. If the event respondent was self-employed, respondent shall provide a copy of the IRS 1099 and/or IRS Schedule C that she filed each year during the period of revocation.

d. Documentation of compliance with terms of the Consent Order.

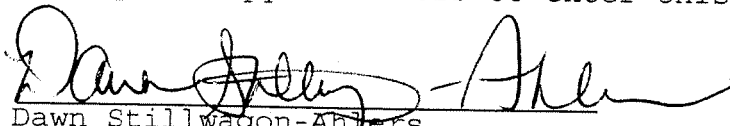
e. If requested by the Committee, respondent shall appear before the Committee, at which time the burden shall be on respondent to demonstrate that she has complied with all the terms of the

Consent Order and is fit and competent to engage in the practice of professional counseling.

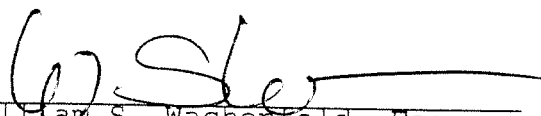
PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR EXAMINERS
COMMITTEE OF THE NEW JERSEY STATE
BOARD OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY
EXAMINERS


J. Barry Mascari, LPC
President

I have read the above order and I understand and agree to abide by its terms. Consent is hereby given to the Professional Counselor Examiners Committee of the State Board of Marriage and Family Therapy Examiners to enter this Order.


Dawn Stillwagon-Ahlers

Consent as to form and entry:


William S. Wachenfeld, Esq.
Mendes & Mount, LLP
Attorney for Dawn Stillwagon-Ahlers